

NC STATE UNIVERSITY

September 27, 2006

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The Honorable Tom Coburn
United States Senate
439 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510-3604

Dear Senator Coburn:

I am responding to your letter dated July 27th, requesting feedback on a number of questions related to earmarked appropriations to NC State. As one of the leading public research universities in the United States with over \$148 million in federally sponsored research in FY 2006, NC State takes seriously the role of congressional oversight over federal agencies and spending.

We believe it is the proper role of you and your colleagues in Congress to exercise judgment and direction in spending federal tax dollars. Congressionally directed projects make up a small, but important component of the \$148 million NC State received last year in federal research support. However, as you are aware, there are a number of things that would not get accomplished or would not get accomplished as quickly were it not for the insistence of Congress in your spending and oversight roles. We believe that the congressionally directed funds that NC State has received have both been vital to solving challenges we face as a state or nation and have been successful in terms of addressing the goals they were meant to achieve. Our experience is that federal agencies manage these programs in the same way they do other federal research programs, expecting us to do exceptional research, education and scholarship and we hold ourselves to those same standards. There are federal research grant programs that focus on many areas of research, education and outreach, but it has been our experience that sometimes there is not an appropriate federal grant program to attack a pressing problem or opportunity.

One example of a program that does not yet have an identified competitively-awarded grant opportunity is the Food Animal Residue Avoidance Databank (FARAD) program, overseen by the USDA. The NC State led program is the only effort in the nation that provides sanctioned information to the animal agriculture industry including veterinarians so that they can avoid accidental contamination of the nation's beef, milk, poultry and pork supply.

The FARAD program oversight is provided by the USDA, with input from FDA, which has sole responsibility for approval over pharmaceuticals used in animal agriculture. Our work and that of our partners is to operate a research, extension and outreach program that combines cutting-edge information about the toxicity of chemicals, pharmaceuticals and other possible contaminants with mathematical algorithms to provide agricultural producers with the best information about when milk and other animal food products are

safe to provide to consumers. This effort has a web-based inquiry, a 7 days a week, 24 hour a day hotline, as well as an intense applied research program that adds to the number of chemicals, pharmaceuticals and other possible contaminants in the database and their varied impact across a wide range of animal species. The program is congressionally authorized in the current Farm Bill but it has not been a part of the requested USDA budget for the past seven years.

As a practical example of FARAD's importance, during Hurricane Katrina, Fran and Floyd's aftermaths, FARAD was contacted by farmers whose animals were exposed to flood waters for lengthy periods of time. Questions about what herbicides, pesticides or other contaminants were in the floodwaters and how soon could farmers resume milk production or beef production were answered based on the best available scientific evidence that is only available through this program. Congress has wisely kept the funding for this program in the USDA budget through the annual appropriations process. I highlight this program because it is an excellent example of how congressional oversight of the appropriations process provides the United States with benefits that would not be possible without your wise judgment.

We've attempted to answer your questions as completely as we could, given the size of the task and the information requested:

1. Please provide a list of all appropriations received by your institution from the year 2000 to the present, and the amount of assistance received.

I am pleased to provide that summary as an attached document.

2. Please provide a summary of the specific objectives or goals set to be achieved by any entity, program, project or service associated with an appropriation at your institution, and, for each appropriation, a list of accomplishments that can be attributed to the project, entity, program or service (e.g. published, peer reviewed research, etc., depending on the nature of the earmarks your institution has received.

We have done our best in the time we have taken to provide you with both a list of programs and amounts and a summary of the major accomplishments of these projects. Most of these are summarized from reports that our faculty provide to the federal agency responsible for overseeing their research.

3. How does your institution set a measure for standards to achieve quality and outcomes for entities, programs, projects or services receiving assistance through earmarks or appropriations?

We measure these programs against the same standards of research, teaching, scholarship and extension/outreach that we measure all sponsored programs against. The programs and faculty that carry them out are fully integrated into the existing department and college structure and are not separate units.

4. Does your institution have a stated policy regarding Congressional earmarks or appropriations (if so, please describe)? Does your institution have a policy regarding partnering in research projects with other universities who may have a differing policy?

We do not have a formal, stated earmark policy at our institution. We would not reject potential partners solely on the basis of an earmark policy different than ours.

5. Has your institution considered hiring a lobbyist to assist your institution in attaining familiarity with the opportunities that may exist to obtain Federal funds for research – such as the earmark process?

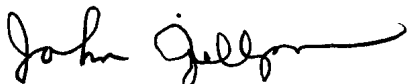
Yes, we have considered hiring a lobbyist to assist us with opportunities that may exist for federal funds.

6. In conclusion, do you find Congressionally earmarked funds to have contributed in a substantive way to your academic institution?

We find that congressionally earmarked funds have substantially contributed to the work that goes on at NC State University.

Please let me know if you have further questions or I can provide additional information.

Sincerely,



John G. Gilligan
Vice Chancellor for Research and Graduate Studies

JGG/mh

Attachments

cc: The Honorable Richard Burr, Senator
The Honorable Elizabeth Dole, Senator
The Honorable David Price, US House of Representatives
Erskine Bowles, President, University of North Carolina
James L. Oblinger, Chancellor